



October 17, 2018

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, WC Docket No. 14-58; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 07-135; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, October 16, 2018, Shirley Bloomfield, Chief Executive Officer of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), together with the undersigned, met with Chairman Ajit Pai and his special counsel Nirali Patel.

In the meeting, we discussed how best to address ongoing concerns with respect to the sufficiency and predictability of federal high-cost universal service fund (“USF”) support. NTCA noted the overwhelming support from stakeholders in the record of the above-referenced proceedings and among policymakers generally for longer-term funding to promote universal service in rural areas. Consistent with a letter recently submitted by NTCA and other rural advocates, we encouraged the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) to adopt and implement a straightforward set of reforms that will provide support that is both sufficient and predictable for each of the already-existing USF mechanisms and continue to promote effective and responsible use of USF resources going forward. *See Ex Parte* Letter from Michael R. Romano, Sr. Vice President, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Commission, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.* (filed Oct. 1, 2018). We further encouraged action by the Commission with respect to other issues in the above-referenced proceeding, such as elimination of the outdated rate floor policy.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the rules of the Commission, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Romano

Michael R. Romano
Senior Vice President –
Industry Affairs & Business Development

cc: Chairman Ajit Pai
Nirali Patel